



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Spring Wheat and Barley Harvests Completed Hail Damage to Crops

Field Crops

Warm, dry conditions continued to be the dominant weather pattern throughout the state. However, lack of moisture level delayed winter wheat seeding for some growers. Hail damage to crops were reported in central and southeast areas of the state. Hop harvest continued in Benton County. Potato digging continued. Harvesting of garbanzo beans wrapped up in Whitman County.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 11% very poor, 27% poor, 32% fair, and 30% good. Water supplies for livestock were being depleted and producers hauled water to supplement the normal water facilities.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple and grape harvests were underway with good quality being reported on both fruits. Pear and sweet corn harvests wound down. Cranberry and fresh market crops were damaged due to hail in the Grayland area.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	28	40	32	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	46	33	100
Subsoil	30	41	29	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	49	38	100
Irrigation Water	8	14	78	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	100
Hay & Roughage	7	12	78	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	100	99	99	100
Winter Wheat Planted	40	24	45	52
Winter Wheat Emerged	15	0	22	24
Barley Harvested	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	63	60	58	51
Corn Silage Harvested	33	24	32	30
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	57	42	49	42
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	90	87	98	98

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	1	13	69	17
Dry Edible Beans	0	15	40	45	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest started over the weekend. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas and Grand fir. Commercial dahlia growers reported brisk sales of cut flowers. Greenhouse tomato growers were very close to the last picking of the year. Potato growers continued sorting harvested tubers.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: A few showers settled the dust, otherwise warm dry conditions continued to be the predominant weather pattern. On Saturday hail damaged the cranberry crop in the Grayland area. The fresh market crop was the most severely damaged with losses estimated to be 50 percent.

Lewis: Night temperatures were beginning to drop to mid 40's. No rain over the last week to speak of, and it looks like another dry week to come.

Mason: Typical autumn weather, cool nights and warm afternoons. Earlier in the week, it was overcast with morning fog. Pastures were holding on fairly well, we have adequate grazing for the next two weeks. If the last week's rain kicks in, the grass will be replenishing this next week. Woodland deciduous trees were just beginning to turn color which seems about a week late this year.

Mason (2nd Report): Cooler temperatures and some rain was hinting that fall is near. The local Farmers Markets were nearing their end,

but had ample tomatoes, kale, beans, and corn. Livestock were still on summer pasture, but livestock owners were starting to plan for fall seedings and winter confinement. Cool season crops were starting to be seeded.

Pierce: Lack of rain was seriously inhibiting the possibility of a second cutting of grass hay in south part of the county.

Pierce/King: Crop conditions remained good for the area. There was a report that hail fell in the Buckley and Orting area. One producer reported the hail caused damage to some crops in the Orting area. No other unusual situations were reported.

Thurston: Much cooler temperatures and the previous weeks rain have helped to alleviate drought conditions. Soil moisture however still remained short. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Grand fir. Home gardeners were feasting on sweet corn and tomatoes.

Whatcom: Potato harvest continued, a few producers were chopping corn for silage. Temperatures were in the mid 60's, and the area received two days of much needed rain.

Central

Benton: Hop, apple, and grape harvests were underway. Good quality was being reported in all three crops. Concord grape harvest will begin on the 19th with growers facing very low prices. Soil moisture remained very low.

Benton (2nd Report): Wheat farmers were delaying planting because of the lack of moisture in their summer fallow.

Chelan/Douglas: Recent precipitation caused approximately 10 percent of the winter wheat in the county to be re-seeded. Some producer in certain areas of Douglas County reported hail. The winter wheat crop was below normal for this time of year. This was due to later than normal planting dates because of the large 2005 crop that took longer to harvest. Apple harvest continued for early varieties. The crop was expected to be smaller than original estimates. Pear harvest was in full swing. Size was down. Current weather (warm days - cool nights) were excellent conditions to help in the maturity of the apple crop.

Ferry/Okanogan: Pear harvest was winding down. Producers were beginning to pick golden variety apples. Most of the winter wheat was planted. There were still a few acres of spring grain yet to be harvested. Third cutting of alfalfa hay was well underway.

Franklin: Forth and Fifth cut alfalfa hay has been cut and most was on the ground drying.

Grant: Potato harvest was underway. Sweet corn harvest was

winding down. Bean harvest to begin in the near future. Fourth cutting of alfalfa hay was underway. Silage corn harvest had begun. Apple harvest continued.

Grant (2nd Report): Fourth cutting of alfalfa was at 50 percent.

Kittitas: No rain received yet. Conditions almost everywhere were bone dry. Deep-rooted trees were beginning to show signs of drought stress, but that was not necessarily abnormal for mid-September. East of the Cascades was a desert, after all. Several cattle producers on rangeland had to haul water, and calf weights were down slightly.

Timothy growers who had water for bringing up a new seeding, have had ideal growing conditions. The days were relatively cool, with continued sunshine. The night temperatures were in the 40's and 50's. It is shaping up to be a very nice fall.

Klickitat: Conditions were still critically dry. Some livestock producers were already beginning to feed. Most wheat producers can not seed due to lack of moisture.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 4 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Planting of winter wheat had begun by some producers. Most did not have moisture to obtain an adequate stand. Rain was needed in all areas. Pastures and rangeland continued to deteriorate as the drought continued. Some producers were feeding hay and others were selling calves early and culling more heavily than normal.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding was progressing, although it was reported that some reseeding has occurred. Moisture has been adequate for planting, but more will be needed later this fall and into the winter.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Winter wheat seeding was going along nicely.

Pend Oreille: The temperature high was 68 degrees. The low was 34 degrees with .3 of an inch of precipitation.

All hay was bailed and out of the fields. The hay crop was larger

than in prior years. Livestock were fattening up preparing for winter. Winter coats were starting to show.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Dry weather conditions prevailed delaying some of the planting of winter wheat until moisture is received. Field work continued to prepare the seed bed, but conditions were dry and dusty. Thanks to earlier rains in June, grazing land continued to hold up. Cattle watering facilities were showing some stress and some producers were hauling water to supplement the normal watering facilities.

Whitman: Harvest of garbanzo beans was wrapping up. Producers out west were beginning to dust in the 2006 winter wheat crop. Burning and tillage operations continued in the east and central part of the county. Precipitation is badly needed.

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 19, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	42	68	57	-1	49	-6	0	-7	0.23	-0.21	1	0.28	-0.77	27	3
Everett	48	70	58	0	60	1	0	-7	0.17	-0.32	1	0.89	-0.31	74	4
Hoquiam	45	67	57	-4	52	-21	0	-14	0.02	-0.73	1	0.38	-1.32	22	2
Kelso	46	75	59	-3	62	-13	3	-16	0.00	-0.56	0	0.84	-0.49	63	2
Olympia	40	75	57	-2	48	-9	0	-7	0.00	-0.52	0	0.50	-0.73	41	3
Sea-Tac	49	72	59	-3	64	-12	2	-15	0.06	-0.37	2	0.68	-0.36	65	5
Shelton	39	76	58	-3	60	-13	5	-12	0.06	-0.55	1	1.06	-0.34	76	4
Tacoma	43	73	57	-3	54	-14	1	-12	0.11	-0.33	1	0.24	-0.85	22	2
Vancouver	44	77	60	-2	69	-4	8	-9	0.02	-0.47	1	0.05	-1.10	4	3
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	39	80	63	5	89	24	22	4	0.00	-0.14	0	0.01	-0.33	3	1
Stampede Pass	42	64	51	2	15	-5	0	0	0.01	-0.78	1	0.91	-0.95	49	4
Wenatchee	48	80	64	1	98	0	28	-8	0.00	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.21	25	1
Yakima AP	38	80	59	-3	62	-17	4	-21	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.20	29	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	42	74	57	-1	48	-8	0	-14	0.07	-0.21	1	0.16	-0.56	22	2
Deer Park	36	75	54	-5	33	-35	0	-21	0.14	-0.07	2	0.27	-0.27	50	3
Spokane AP	45	73	57	-3	47	-21	0	-22	0.08	-0.08	1	0.10	-0.39	20	2
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	42	79	61	-5	76	-29	11	-31	0.06	-0.06	1	0.10	-0.13	43	2
Moses Lake	41	79	61	-5	77	-28	12	-30	0.00	-0.12	0	0.00	-0.23	0	0
Quincy	42	77	62	-2	82	-5	14	-17	0.00	-0.10	0	0.01	-0.30	3	1
Ritzville	42	75	57	-4	52	-23	0	-23	0.00	-0.14	0	0.20	-0.12	63	3
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	42	84	65	-4	106	-22	36	-25	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.23	0	0
Pasco	42	84	64	-2	97	-6	27	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.02	-0.22	8	1
Pullman	38	74	54	-5	30	-32	0	-18	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.54	0	0
Whitman Miss.	38	82	61	-2	76	-6	12	-16	0.02	-0.12	1	0.09	-0.27	25	3
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	43	73	56	-5	41	-36	1	-23	0.01	-0.27	1	0.33	-0.39	46	2
Lewiston ID	46	82	62	-3	82	-20	17	-26	0.00	-0.17	0	0.04	-0.46	8	1

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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